

PENNSYLVANIA BALLET

ROY KAISER, ARTISTIC DIRECTOR 2011 - 2012 SEASON

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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PENNSYLVANIA BALLET OPENS 48TH SEASON **with Russian Suite: Ratmansky & Balanchine**

Raymonda Variations by George Balanchine

Jeu de Cartes by Alexei Ratmansky [North American Premiere]

Slaughter on Tenth Avenue by George Balanchine

October 20-23, 2011 at the Academy of Music

Philadelphia, PA (September 22, 2011) – Pennsylvania Ballet bursts into the 2011-2012 Season with a program packed with choreographic heavyweights, Russian Suite: Ratmansky and Balanchine. Featuring the North American premiere of Alexei Ratmansky's *Jeu de Cartes* plus two George Balanchine classics, Russian Suite: Ratmansky & Balanchine takes the Academy of Music stage October 20-23, 2011.

“These are two major dance icons on one program –Balanchine is a ballet legend, and Ratmansky is a legend in the making,” Artistic Director Roy Kaiser says. “Premiering a Ratmansky work in the States is huge coup for the Company, and for Philadelphia.”

Alexei Ratmansky originally created his bold, abstract *Jeu de Cartes* for the famed Bolshoi Ballet. Until now, no other company has performed the work. The French title translates to “The Card Game,” which for Ratmansky simply addresses the “gamble” of choreographing to Igor Stravinsky's musical complexities. Called “the most sought after man in ballet” by *The New Yorker*, Ratmansky draws on both his classical Russian training and Western influences.

Two diverse treasures from Pennsylvania Ballet's patriarch, the unparalleled George Balanchine, complete the program. *Raymonda Variations* was inspired by Balanchine's love of Alexander Glazunov's *Raymonda* and the music's “grand and generous manner, its joy and playfulness.” Opening with a waltz for the principal ballerina and a corps of 12, the ballet is a practical A to Z of classical technique.

Broadway meets ballet in *Slaughter on Tenth Avenue*, Balanchine's hilarious story of a dancer who falls in love with the girlfriend of a big mob boss. This “Chicago”-style one-act features sassy, show-stopping choreography set to Richard Rodgers' score.

Tickets to Russian Suite: Ratmansky & Balanchine are on sale now, with prices ranging from \$20 to \$140. Tickets are available online at paballet.org, by phone at 215.893.1999, and in person at the Kimmel Center Box Office.

Russian Suite: Ratmansky & Balanchine performances at the Academy of Music:

- Thursday, October 20 at 7:30 p.m.
- Friday, October 21 at 7:30 p.m.
- Saturday, October 22 at 2 p.m.
- Saturday, October 22 at 8 p.m.
- Sunday, October 23 at 2 p.m.

Groups of 10 or more receive great discounts and unique perks! Ask about backstage tours, special talks with staff and dancers, dining options near the theater, and holiday parties for your group. For tickets and more information, contact Group Sales Manager Arajua Backman at 215.587.6921 or abackman@paballet.org.

Celebrate the start of Pennsylvania Ballet's 2011-2012 Season at the Opening Night Gala on Wednesday, October 19. The evening begins with a private performance of Alexei Ratmansky's *Jeu de Cartes* at the Academy of Music at 6:30 p.m. Cocktails, dinner, and dancing with the dancers will follow at the Union League of Philadelphia. The 2011 Gala Committee is co-chaired by Amy and John Korman and Dasha Yermakova and Richard Pruett. Tickets for this black tie fundraiser are on sale now starting at \$350 per person and \$3,500 per table. Young Friends tickets are available for \$175 for guests ages 21-39. For more information and tickets, contact Special Events Manager Barbara Vogdes at 215.587.6916 or bvogdes@paballet.org.

2011-2012 Season subscriptions are on sale now at 215.893.1955 and at paballet.org. Save up to 30% on single ticket prices with a full season subscription. Subscribers enjoy the best seats at the best prices, personalized service, lost ticket insurance, flexible ticket exchanges, a monthly payment plan, discounted parking, and more!

NEW! Conversations with Pennsylvania Ballet

Get a rare glimpse into the lives of Pennsylvania Ballet dancers through this brand new discussion series. Hear behind-the-scenes details, learn about their latest performances, and bring your questions for a lively Q&A. Free and open to the public. To be held at the Free Library of Philadelphia branch at 19th & Locust. The first Conversation will take place on Monday, October 17 at 6:30 p.m., with Soloists Lauren Fadeley and Ian Hussey scheduled as guest speakers.

Tickets are on sale now for Pennsylvania Ballet's holiday classic, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*[™], December 10-31 at the Academy of Music. For tickets, call 215.893.1999 or visit paballet.org.

Connect with us! Follow Pennsylvania Ballet on **Twitter**, **Facebook**, and **YouTube** to go behind-the-scenes anytime, day or night.

The Company premiere of *Jeu de Cartes* was made possible in part by a generous gift from an anonymous donor.

Pennsylvania Ballet's 2011-2012 Season sponsors include DoubleTree by Hilton, The Philadelphia Inquirer, The Sporting Club at the Bellevue, and US Airways.

Pennsylvania Ballet receives support from the Pennsylvania Council on the Arts, a state agency funded by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and the National Endowment for the Arts, the Pennsylvania Department of Community and Economic Development, and The Philadelphia Cultural Fund.

Founded in 1963 by Balanchine student and protégée Barbara Weisberger, **Pennsylvania Ballet** is one of the nation's leading ballet companies. Headquartered in Philadelphia, the Company's annual local season features six programs of classic favorites and new works, including the Philadelphia holiday tradition, *George Balanchine's The Nutcracker*TM. For more information, visit paballet.org or call 215.551.7000.

Online Press Images Library:

The media is invited to download high-resolution photos from the 2011-2012 Season at:

http://www.paballet.org/press_images/201112_Season.html

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